

# Middle Class Union Formed To Cut Prices

C. H. Meltzer, Nina Wilcox Putnam and Others Are Behind Movement to Protect Unorganized Workers

## To Follow English Idea

## War on Profiteers and Grasping Labor Leaders Aim of People's League

America's first union of the hitherto unorganized middle class became a reality yesterday.

Charles Henry Meltzer, the critic; Nina Wilcox Putnam, the writer; Mrs. Cornelia Wilcox Trow and Dr. Emil Mayer, all of New York City, stand sponsor for the project, and they have the written endorsement of Dr. William F. Manning, pastor of Trinity Church; Clayton Hamilton, dramatic critic, and others.

The actual organization of the People's League of America, as the association will be known, was effected at a small invitation meeting at the Greenwich Village Theater. In a few days a New York office will be opened, public meetings will be held, and later mass meetings will be held to spread propaganda and enroll members.

Nina Wilcox Putnam, one of the speakers, explained that while many persons had felt the necessity of just such an organization, the present movement resulted from several letters printed on the editorial page of The Tribune describing the middle class organizations in England and pointing out the possibilities of duplicating them here.

To Push Organization

Inspired by these articles, four per-

sons, she said, had conceived the idea of inaugurating the People's League of America. Each contributing \$10, these organizers rented the theater and placed their plan before half a hundred invited guests. Additional funds were obtained, and with the gift of office room by a friend, it is planned to push the work as fast as possible.

"No red flag of anarchy and no black flag of piracy will be our standard," said Mr. Meltzer in explaining the purpose of the organization. "Let it be known first that we are pure Americans seeking to bring about the best good for American people."

Continuing, he pointed out that in the scramble for profits by capital and the desire for wage increases by labor the unorganized middle class is getting into a worse plight every day. "We do not hate capital and we do not hate labor," he added, "but we do hate all class privilege detrimental to the people as a whole, and we intend to fight it."

**War on Profiteers**

War on profiteers and grasping labor leaders, a fair chance for all and the protection of unorganized workers are the chief aims of the league. It is designed to include in its membership clerks, stenographers, doctors, lawyers, artists, authors, hair dressers, newspaper men—in fact, all who have watched the cost of living steadily mount without organization back of them to enforce proportionate salary increases and without stocks and bonds on which to realize war profits.

"The public be damned" policy must go out, according to the organizers. They intend to bring about conditions so that no longer may taxes, wage increases, extra dividends and similar financial burdens be pushed on the back of the long-suffering public. There will be no endorsement of political parties, but there will be opposition to those whose ideals of fair dealing do not measure up to those of the league.

"Strike" asked Nina Wilcox Putnam. "Well, maybe not at first, but we intend to fight some of the wrong conditions now existing, and I can foresee the time when we may have to use that weapon to make our demands effective."

In the course of his speech Mr. Meltzer said that certain persons had warned him that it had taken seventy-five years for the unions to become completely organized, to which the speaker replied: "Well, if it took them seventy-five years we intend to profit from their experience and put the People's League of America across in seventy-five days."

# Public Will Help Draft Program of Industrial Reform

Conferees to Draw Tentative Draft With Remedies for Strikes and Then Open Meetings for Suggestions

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Drafting a tentative program to establish industrial justice and eliminate strikes will begin Monday, when the Industrial Conference reconvenes for its third week of work.

Under the chairmanship of Secretary of Labor Wilson, the delegates have discussed exhaustively the subject of arbitration and adjustment machinery in private industry, public utilities and the government service. Experts have aided the sub-committees studying the experience of other countries, and in approaching the task of combining the recommendations of the conference with any previous body which has considered the same subjects.

It is planned to complete the tentative report by December 19, when adjournment will be taken until January. If possible, it will be mailed to every paper in the United States with the expectation that resulting criticism by editors, labor councils, manufacturers' associations and the public generally, will assist the conference in revising this tentative draft later.

Open hearing will be held in January. Any person who desires to make pertinent suggestions will be heard. In addition, various leaders in the ranks of labor and capital will be called. Publication of the report, it is expected, will enable persons appearing before the conference to decide what they want to say, conserving time.

"The conference really has made very substantial progress this week," said Stanley King, of its membership. He added that the delegates were confident of evolving a real contribution to industrial welfare.

# Jerseyites Protest at Big Munitions Stores

Residents of New Brunswick Fear Danger of Explosion at Government Arsenal

Special Correspondence

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Dec. 13.—There are nearly 50,000,000 pounds of explosives stored in the government arsenal at Bonhampton, five miles from here, besides 8,279,825 shells of various calibers, including a large number captured from the Germans. When this became known through official disclosures to-day the Board of Freeholders took steps to protest to Senator Frelinghuysen, while the Middlesex County Grand Jury was requested to take action toward obtaining an immediate reduction of the menace. County officials declared that, in spite of the police measures taken by the commanding officer of the arsenal, they considered the danger of a repetition of the Morgan munition plant explosion too great to allow such huge quantities of high explosives to remain so close to New Brunswick.

The report of the arsenal commander shows the following explosives and munitions in storage November 27:

Black powder, 3,189,884 pounds; pyro cotton, 10,837,190 pounds; smokeless powder, 18,386,597 pounds; ammonium nitrate, 375,097 pounds; sodium, 10,050,931 pounds; high explosive shells, 2,785,036; low explosive shells, 5,449,384; German shells, 28,874; fuses, 16,007; cartridge cases and propelling charges, 6,528; gun cotton, 22,814 pounds.

**"Rainbow" Sugar Gets Colors**

By Use of Harmless Dyes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Harmless dyes were used in coloring the samples of "rainbow" sugar so far examined by the bureau of chemistry, the Department of Agriculture announced to-day. The sugar, the statement said, is "harmless, sound and not inferior" and the practice of the refiners does not violate the law so long as no attempt at concealment is made.

The colored product, which is used ordinarily for confections, has been placed on the retail market as a result of the shortage.

# Teachers Seek End Of Triple Control; Ask Greater Power

Elective Board of Education, One-third From Schools, Two-thirds Citizens, Proposed; To Consider 'Creed'

The Teachers' Union of New York made public yesterday its program for reorganization of the local Board of Education and other school systems throughout the United States. The suggestions will be brought before the national convention of the American Federation of Teachers at Chicago on December 29, in connection with a "Teachers' Creed," also drafted by the local body.

Holding that the present system of triple control, in which authority is divided between a Board of Education, a Superintendent of Schools and city officials, is a failure, the union suggests a remedy in centering responsibility in a single body, to be composed of one-third classroom teachers and two-thirds citizens other than teachers.

It is suggested that the members of these bodies be chosen at primary elections called for the purpose, the teacher members to be nominated by teachers only. The voters at these elections, it is proposed, shall also vote on the tax rate or the appropriation for educational purposes, and that no other body shall have power to interfere with the administration of these funds.

**Among Other Proposals**

Among the other proposals are:

"That the members of this single body, or Board of Education, shall be paid for their services."

"That under the regulations of this Board of Education there shall be municipal teachers' councils with legalized powers of initiating and adopting policies, approving courses of

study, adjusting grievances and through democratic cooperation establishing standards of professional conduct. In all vetoes of acts of these councils the board be required to give reasons for such veto."

"That all executive officers of the educational system be nominated solely by the groups of teachers with whom the work of the officer is to be carried on and that the election from the candidates so nominated shall be the duty of the Board of Education."

"Such officers to be elected for three years, the recall of such officers to be operative after one year of service."

"That the Board of Education and the teachers shall be bound by no rule or trial of the existing system of educational administration, except by such as meet with the general approval of these bodies."

## Only Suggestions Here

Dr. Henry R. Linville, president of the Teachers' Union, declared that as teachers in New York have little power in the administration of schools, the suggestions, if adopted at the convention, would only be effective as "suggestions." In Washington, where the teachers have greater powers, there is a possibility of the new program being put into effect, he said.

The "Teachers' Creed" calls upon all teachers to subscribe to the belief that unionization is the most feasible way to obtain economic justice for professional workers as well as manual laborers. It asks them to advocate "that in the schools themselves there must be no interference with the freedom of the pupils to hold ideas of their own without interference from the dogmatic positions held by school officials, whether among the supervising or teaching staff."

Those chosen to represent the union at the convention are Dr. Henry R. Linville, Joseph Jablonow, Abraham Lefkowitz and Henrietta Rodman. William E. Kroeger will represent the vocational teachers.

## Tractor Used in Logging

For the first time in the history of logging in Wisconsin a tractor was used recently for skidding logs. Representatives of the concern which makes the tractors spent a week in the woods studying necessary changes. Swamps made the use of teams impossible. The tractor was operated by an overseas man who qualified better than the driver sent by the factory.

# Phone Girl Shortage Is Laid to Low Wages

Unpleasant Working Conditions Also Contribute to Poor Service, Says Report

Low wages of operators and unpleasant working conditions are ascribed as the causes of poor telephone service in a statement issued yesterday by the National Consumers' League.

Commenting on the hearings before the Public Service Commission, the statement remarks on the "singular unanimity" with which telephone company officials and chief operators denied the wage scale had anything to do with service. The percentage of girls receiving the lower rates of pay, it is declared, must be low, because half the force has been with the company less than three years, and it requires six years' service before an operator re-finer and tougher than catgut.

ceives the maximum wage of \$20 a week.

"If ventilated workrooms, unclean food in the company's lunchrooms, overwork and the intense nervous exhaustion from which many of the operators were suffering," as related in a report by the Health Commissioner, would have thrown light on the Public Service Commission's investigation, it is asserted.

It is suggested the company pay higher wages instead of "expending enormous sums in advertising the advantages of the telephone operator's life, which 50 per cent of the new employees find unendurable at the end of six months."

## Kangaroo Farming Industry

Kangaroo farming is an important industry in Australia. The hides are valuable and the tendons extremely fine—indeed, they are the best material known to surgeons for sewing broken bones together, being much stronger and tougher than catgut.



### Exhibition Evening Gowns At Greatly Reduced Prices

A WONDERFUL collection! Scores of brilliant styles for dinner-dancing—the opera. Exclusive, adorably beautiful creations in metallic brocades, chiffon, velvet, sequins, silk nets, etc.—and no two alike. Rich, luxurious, superb, yet priced in the characteristic Maxon fashion—

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Extraordinary Special Prices

### JAPANESE HAND EMB'D SILK UNDERGARMENTS

*Silk Japanese Chemises*.....6.95  
Made of crepe de chine and habutai silk, hand embroidered.

*Silk Japanese Nightgowns*.....11.75  
Distinctive designs and models in exquisitely hand embroidered patterns.

*Silk Mandarin Pellicots*.....12.75  
Straightline models, hand embroidered in rich design, with embroidered scalloped bottom.

*Brocaded Silk Crepe Kimonos*.....29.50  
Self-figured silk crepe with embroidered symbolic seal. Warmly interlined.

*Novelty Japanese Coats*.....59.00  
Distinctive primitive designs in rich heavy crepes, printed and embroidered.

Exceptional Sale Monday

### WOMEN'S VELVET and METEOR HOUSE COATS

Regularly 59.00  
**35.00**

Meteor combined with laces and chiffons.  
Velvet lined with chiffon.

For Monday Only

### BLACK DRESS BOOTS

For Women & Misses  
**15.50**  
Formerly 18.00 to 24.00

Three models of high cut lace boots, in all black suede, or all black satin; also black kidskin with black suede lace stay. High arch, Louis XVI. heels.

### Gifts For Women of Unusual Fascination

*Plain Silk Hosiery*.....1.95  
Three Pairs in Box, 5.75.  
Black, white, cordovan, navy or gray;  
reinforced lisle garter tops and soles.

*Plain Silk Hosiery*.....2.45  
Three Pairs in Box, 7.25.  
Medium weight silk, in black or white;  
all silk or lisle garter top.

*Novelty Silk Hosiery*.....2.75  
Three Pairs in Box, 8.00.  
Black, white or brown, with self or  
contrasting color clox, also openwork  
clox in various designs.

*Openwork & Clox Hosiery*...4.75  
Three Pairs in Box, 14.00.  
Black Silk Hose with various open-  
work insteps and clox designs.

*Lace Inserted Hosiery*.....5.50  
Three Pairs in Box for 16.25.  
Superlative quality pure silk, in black  
or white, with exclusive lace designs.

*One Clasp Street Gloves*....2.50  
Capeskin, in tan, brown, beaver or  
black; P.X.M. sewn.

*French Kid Gloves*.....2.95  
Two clasp; of finest selected skins, in  
white, black, brown, beaver or gray.

*Slip-on Mocha Gloves*.....3.25  
In gray, strap at wrist; spear backs.

*Eight-button Length Gloves*..5.25  
Light weight capeskin, in white, brown,  
beaver or gray.

*Hand Emb'd 'Kerchiefs*. EA. 1.00  
Pure linen, with hand-embroidered de-  
sign in corner.

*Emb'd Linen 'Kerchiefs*....1.00  
Box of Three.  
Pure linen, with embroidered corner  
in various designs.

*Lace Edge 'Kerchiefs*... EA. 2.50  
Pure linen, with hand-made filet mesh  
thread lace edge.

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These Broadtail Coats and Wraps 45 and 48 inches long

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Broadtail with black lynx.....	2450.00	1850.00
Broadtail—self collar and cuffs.....	2750.00	1950.00
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Broadtail and dyed sable.....	3500.00	2250.00
Broadtail and dyed sable.....	2750.00	2250.00
Broadtail and sable.....	2950.00	2250.00
Broadtail and sable.....	2950.00	2500.00
Broadtail and sable.....	3500.00	2500.00
Broadtail and chinchilla.....	2950.00	2500.00
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Broadtail and chinchilla.....	3500.00	2750.00
Broadtail and chinchilla.....	3500.00	2950.00
Broadtail and sable.....	4500.00	3500.00
Broadtail and sable.....	4500.00	3750.00
Broadtail and sable.....	4500.00	3950.00

#### MINK COATS & WRAPS

At Reductions of  
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	FORMERLY	NOW
Mink Wrap..... 36 inches long.....	1100.00	750.00
Mink Wrap..... 36 inches long.....	1450.00	1100.00
Mink Wrap..... 45 inches long.....	1950.00	1500.00
Mink Wrap..... 48 inches long.....	2500.00	1950.00
Mink Wrap..... 48 inches long.....	3500.00	2750.00
Mink Wrap..... 48 inches long.....	3500.00	2950.00
Mink Wrap..... 48 inches long.....	5250.00	3950.00
Mink Wrap..... 45 inches long.....	3500.00	2950.00
Mink Wrap..... 48 inches long.....	3500.00	2950.00

#### CHINCHILLA, SABLE, MOLE and SQUIRREL WRAPS

at proportionate reductions

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*One Stick Ostrich Fans*....18.00  
Novelty fan with three large and two  
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*Uncurled Ostrich Fans*....34.50  
Long graceful plumes, in fashionable  
shades, also black; seven sticks.

*Gold Leaf Vanities*.....6.95  
Gilded leather case, with powder and  
card pockets; also mirror.

*Black Leather Handbags*..11.00  
Vachette leather, open outside pockets,  
inside compartment and mirror, moire  
silk lined; double strap handles.

*Velvet and Brocade Bags*..20.00  
Black velvet, inlaid with metal bro-  
cade, shell frame, velvet handle.

*"Hasty Line" Leather Pads* 5.00  
Ecrase leather cover; inside pad com-  
bines paper and envelope.

*Leather Desk Sets*.....16.50  
Ecrase leather, inlaid with a gold de-  
sign; comprising writing accessories.

*Telephone Book Covers*... 5.00  
Brocaded blue or rose satin, trimmed  
with gold or silver lace galloon.

*Tourists' Silk Bags*.....6.00  
Brocaded silk, in rose, orchid or pink.

*Silk Boudoir Pillows*.....10.00  
Round taffeta silk pillows, ornamented  
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*Electric Light Dolls*.....18.00  
Dressed in quaint silk frocks of an  
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*French Satin Brassieres*....14.35  
Two-faced heavy satin, in peach, flesh,  
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